

Purpose and Need
Greenback Pipeline Water System Extension
Tonto Basin Ranger District

Date: 4/12/2021

ID Team Leader: Eric Hoskins

Project Name: Greenback Pipeline Water System Extension

Project type: Structural Range Improvement

Target start date: May 1st 2021

Target finish date: October 30th 2022

Expected NEPA Documentation Type: Categorical Exclusion (DM required)

If Categorical Exclusion, select Category: 32.2 (9) Implement or modify minor management practices for range allotment when no allotment mgmt plan

Project location: The Greenback Pipeline Water System Extension project is located on the Greenback grazing allotment of the Tonto Basin Ranger District, Tonto National Forest. This project is located south of Greenback Valley and accessed by a user created two track road from the private property that connects to Forest Road # 1416.

The legal location is T6N, R12E, Sec. 21

Vegetation type: Semi desert Grassland and Juniper Woodland

Existing Condition

The Greenback grazing allotment located on the Tonto Basin Ranger District is permitted for 285 adult cattle yearlong and 157 yearlings with an Allotment Management Plan signed in 2008. The basic goal of the management plan is to maintain or improve resource conditions on the Greenback Allotment in compliance with the Tonto National Forest Land Management Plan.

Desired Conditions

As described in the Tonto National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan on replacement page 42. Standards and guidelines state that a minimum of four waters per section and one water per section in big game key areas should be provided. In management area 6J livestock should be managed at Level D. Level D management for livestock includes:

Management seeks to optimize production and utilization of forage allocated for livestock use consistent with maintaining the environment and providing the multiple use of the range. From all existing range and livestock management technology, practices may be selected and used to develop cost effective methods for achieving improved forage supplies and uniform livestock distribution and forage use... Cultural practices may be combined with fencing and water developments to implement complex grazing systems and management methods.

The Tonto National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan states that rangeland in less than satisfactory condition will be treated with improved grazing management along with the installation of structural and non-structural improvements (pg 195). Also to develop structural improvements in association with AMP's to maintain utilization at levels appropriate with management intensity and AMP objectives.

Current Management Direction

The Greenback grazing allotment has an active term grazing permit with an Allotment Management Plan signed in 2008. Part of that management plan implemented a rest rotation that included the creation of multiple pastures. Each pasture should have multiple waters so that cattle didn't congregate at a single watering site. The 2008 decision for the allotment allowed for adaptive management that included additional structural range infrastructure as needed.

Purpose and Need

The purpose of this project is to increase distribution of livestock in the Panther Gulch pasture by providing additional livestock watering sites. The need is to increase accessibility and forage availability to livestock that is currently not accessible with current water and topography.

Proposed Action

This project consists of adding one new livestock trough and approximately 1/2 mile of HDPE pipe above ground that will be connected to a previously authorized water line that is pumped from the private property located in Greenback Valley. The trough and the pipeline being installed by horseback. No vegetation clearing besides that right at the trough site is anticipated.

Design Features

The pipe will be no less than HDPE 200psi 1" and will be laid above ground by hand or horseback. Road access will be limited to the existing user created two track to transport the trough or the pipeline into place. The trough must be level and have a functional access and escape ramp for wildlife. The trough must have a functional float that keeps water from overflowing.

Implementation Timeline:

Initial Scoping should be completed by May 1st 2021 and implementation is expected to begin by September 1st 2021

Please send your questions, concerns, or mitigations to:

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